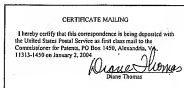




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATIONS

Applicant: Seiji Yamashita                      Group Art Unit: 1741  
Serial No.: 09/507,212                      Examiner: Tran, T  
Filed: February 18, 2000                      Docket No.: P 00 572.006  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING CONTAMINATION IN A  
PLASTIC CONTAINER



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January 2, 2004

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

*ok to enter  
tt 1/15/04*

Greetings:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2003, please amend claims 14 and 26 as indicated below to correct clerical errors and thereby place the case in better condition for appeal:

In the Claims:

Amend claims 14 and 26 as indicated below:

1.(previously amended)                      A method for reducing contamination inside a plastic container,

comprising coating selected portions of the container with a coating that consists essentially of titanium dioxide such that the titanium dioxide is not substantially prevented from attracting atmospheric water molecules for loosening particle contamination, for facilitating cleaning the container to prevent contamination of the article when the article is stored in the container, and using the container for holding at least one semiconductor wafer.

2. (cancelled)

3.(original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the plastic material so that the plastic material includes polypropylene.

4.(original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the plastic material so that the plastic material includes polycarbonate.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10.(previously amended) An apparatus for reducing contamination of an article, comprising a plastic container adapted for holding the article, and a coating on selected portions of said container, said coating consisting essentially of titanium dioxide such that the titanium dioxide is not substantially prevented from attracting atmospheric water molecules for loosening particle contamination, for facilitating cleaning the container to prevent contamination of the article when the article is stored in the container, the apparatus further comprising at least one semiconductor wafer disposed in the container.

11.(original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said container includes a closeable lid for substantially sealing the interior of the container from the external atmosphere.

12.(original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said container includes polypropylene.

13.(original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said container includes polycarbonate.

14.(Amended) The method of claim 2 1, further comprising selecting said portions to be interior surfaces of the container.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21.(previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said coating in the form of a gel

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26.(Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ apparatus of claim 10, wherein said selected portions are interior surfaces of the container.

27.(previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said coating is provided in the form of a gel.